

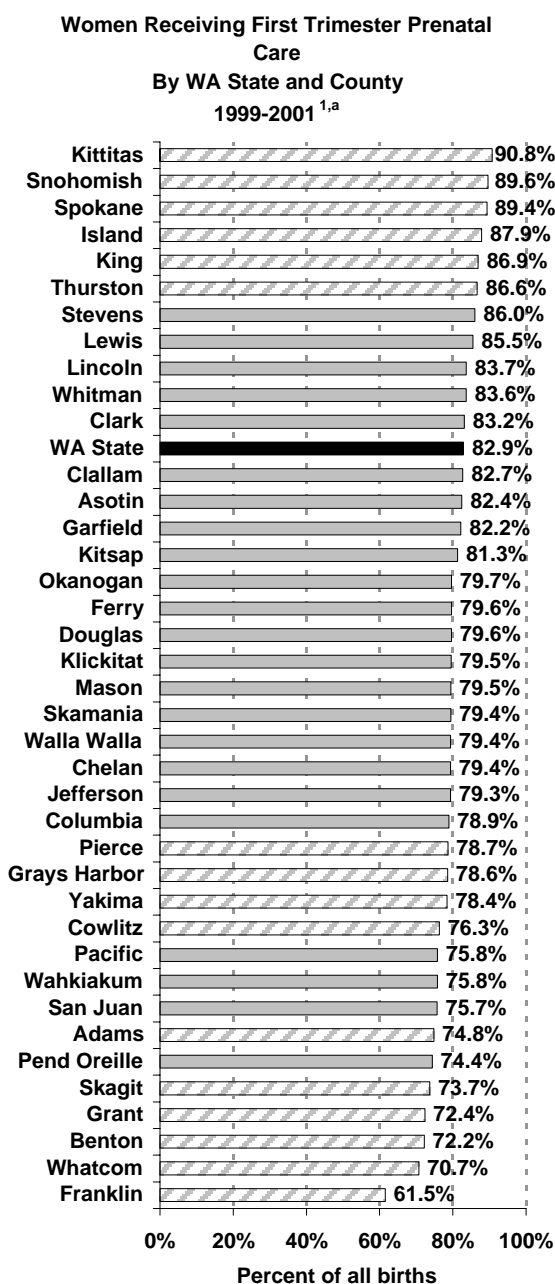
# Prenatal Care

**Definition:** Prenatal care is comprehensive medical care provided for the mother and fetus. Services include screening and treatment for medical conditions, and identification and interventions for behavioral risk factors associated with poor birth outcomes. First trimester is the first three months of pregnancy. These data include only women with a live birth.

## Key Findings

- ❖ Early and continuous prenatal care is considered the best strategy for improving the long-term health of the mother and preventing adverse birth outcomes.
- ❖ In 2001, an estimated 83.2% of Washington state pregnant women entered prenatal care during the first trimester (first three months) of pregnancy, compared to the national figure of 83.4%.<sup>1,2</sup>
- ❖ In Washington, the proportion of women entering prenatal care in the first trimester has significantly increased from the 1990 rate of 78.6%, mirroring a national pattern.<sup>2,a</sup>
- ❖ In 1999-2001, the women who were significantly more likely to begin prenatal care services in the first trimester were women over age 19, White or Asian women, Non-Hispanic women, non-Medicaid women, and women in urban core and urban fringe areas.<sup>1,4,a</sup>
- ❖ The Healthy People 2010 goal is to increase the percentage of all pregnant women who receive prenatal care in the first trimester to 90%.<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ The large proportion of birth certificates with missing data on prenatal care initiation continues to be a reporting issue. In 2001, month of onset of prenatal care was missing for 8.2% of live births.<sup>1</sup>

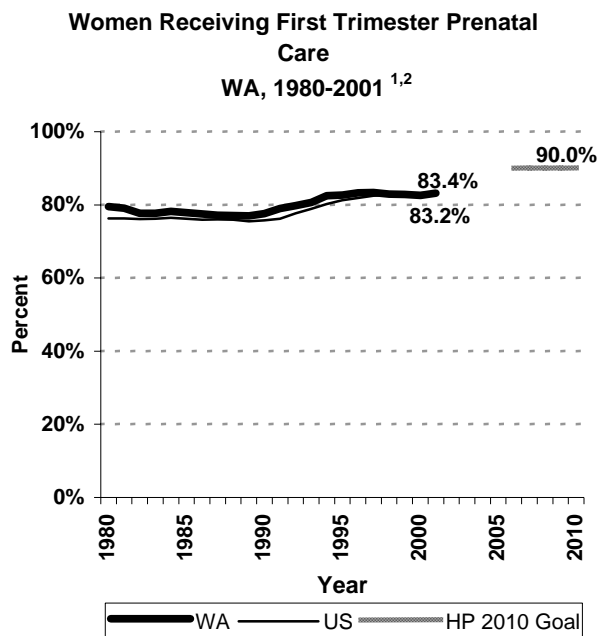
## County



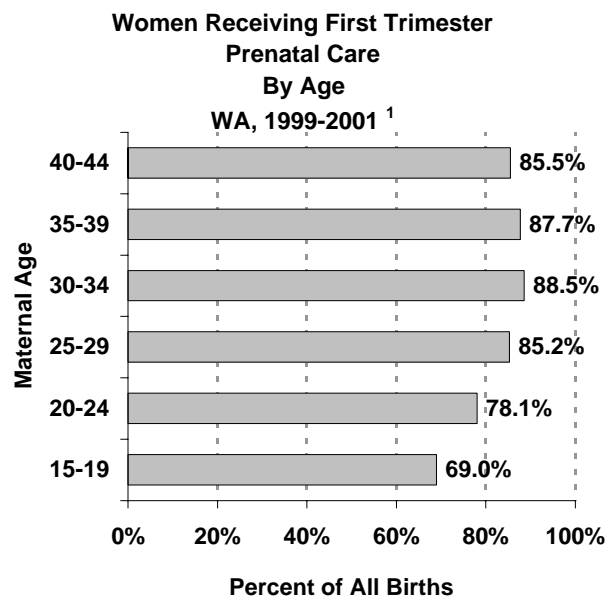
Significantly different from state rate

## Prenatal Care (cont.)

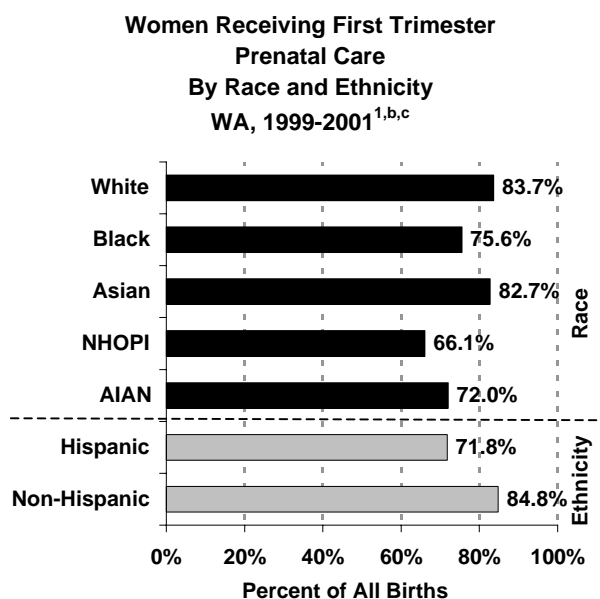
### Time Trend



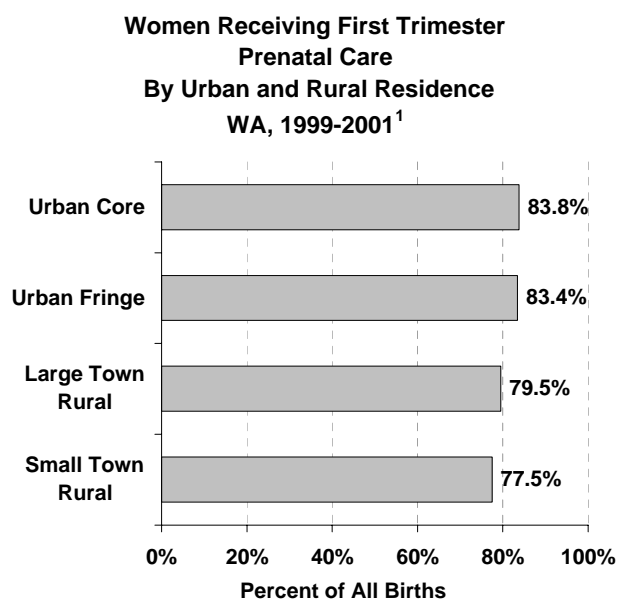
### Age



### Race and Ethnicity

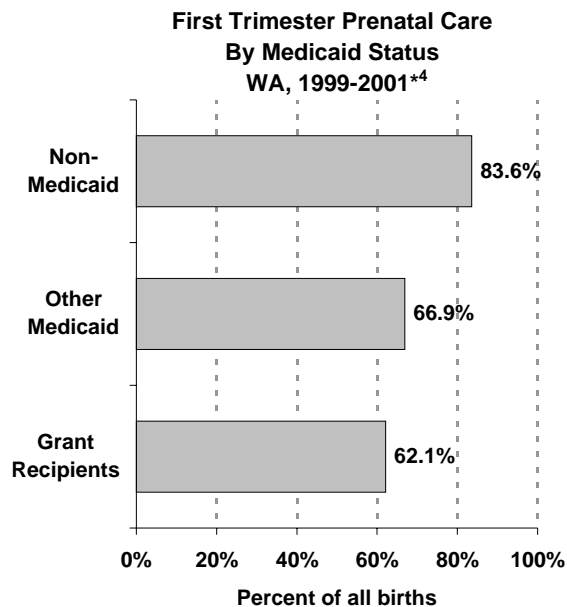


### Rural and Urban Residence



## Prenatal Care (cont.)

### Medicaid Status



*\*Medicaid women had either prenatal care or delivery paid by Medicaid. Medicaid women include those who are very low income and receive cash assistance (TANF) in addition to Medicaid **[Grant Recipients]** and those who receive Medicaid with no cash assistance **[Other Medicaid]**.*

### Data Sources

- <sup>1</sup> Washington State birth certificate data: Vital Statistics 2001, Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, December 2002.
- <sup>2</sup> Births: Final data for 2001. National Vital Statistics Report; Vol 52 No 2. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 2002.
- <sup>3</sup> Department of Health and Human Services (US). Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health. 2nd edition. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office; November 2000.
- <sup>4</sup> Cawthon, L. Characteristics of Women Who Gave Birth in Washington State, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, First Steps Database, 10/22/02.

### Endnotes

- <sup>a</sup> Significance was determined based on 95% Confidence Intervals.
- <sup>b</sup> AIAN - American Indian Alaskan Native
- <sup>c</sup> NHOPI - Native Hawaiian Other Pacific Islander